

	<b>FREDERICKSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVES</b>	
	<b>OPERATIONS</b>	
<b>325.00</b>	<b>APPROVED:</b> <i>David W. Nye, Chief of Police</i>	<b>Initiated:</b> 10/01/2007
		<b>Revised:</b> 11/16/2015

## CIVIL DISTURBANCE

**325.00 – Command and Control** – The Incident Commander is in command of police operations and directs the activities of all police personnel (including SETT) during the disorder. All police personnel will function as part of the overall effort and will not take individual police action.

The most effective method of controlling a disturbance is the structured response of sufficient police personnel to cope with the situation.

An announcement through a P.A. loudspeaker to the crowd commanding them, in the name of the state, to immediately disperse must be made (required by Code of Virginia § 18.2-411).

**325.01 – Spontaneous Disturbance Initial Procedures** – When an unruly crowd is confronted and the units on the scene feel additional assistance is necessary, the senior ranking officer will advise Communications and request assistance and a supervisor. Once additional assistance is requested, the senior ranking officer or responding supervisor will designate a specific location (Staging Area) where responding units will meet.

The senior ranking officer will initiate the Incident Command System (ICS) and become the Incident Commander until arrival of a higher authority who assumes the position. The Incident Commander will give Communications a brief analysis of the situation including:

- Approximate size of the crowd
- Any injuries
- Any active property damage or looting
- Nature of the disturbance
- Specific location of the incident
- Number of additional officers required
- Police action in progress
- Additional resources needed (K9, SETT, Detectives, Fire, EMS)

**325.02 – Responsibilities** – Personnel have the following responsibilities:

- The Communications Supervisor will notify the Watch Commander and relay all pertinent information relative to the disturbance.
- The Watch Commander will notify the PIO to assist with media briefings, rumor control, and casualty information.
- Command Staff will be notified.

**325.03 – Police Action** – If the Incident Commander determines that a significant police commitment may be necessary, the following steps may be taken:

- Request a designated radio channel.
- Establish a Command Post.
- Request additional resources. (consider mutual aid)
- Mobilize SETT.
- Notify the Sheriff's office and the Regional Jail.
- Regulate and control the deployment of responding units.
- Select and staff traffic control points.
- Establish a Perimeter and limit access to the area.
- Ensure increased police protection for all public facilities within the area.
- Detail several plainclothes officers to gather intelligence.
- Establish a Staging Area and have all responding units report there prior to assignment.
- Officers will be transported to sites as needed, by department vehicles if possible.
- Request prisoner transport vans from the Jail to the staging area.
- The use of chemical agents or other tactics will be delegated to the SETT Commander under the direction of the Incident Commander.
- All personnel entering the perimeter will check in with Command.
- Identify the leaders of the event and who the agitators are.

If more personnel are needed than are currently working, the Incident Commander may request off-duty mobilization of Department personnel and/or initiate Mutual Aid assistance. All additional personnel responding will be directed to the staging area.

The Incident Commander will ensure that periodic reports on injuries or deaths, should they occur, are forwarded to the Chief of Police.

**325.04 – Anticipated Disturbance** – The Patrol Division Commander will assume responsibility for conducting a briefing, making all necessary plans and arrangements for anticipated problems, and invoking the appropriate tactical alert. Additional actions are:

- All necessary equipment including situation maps will be checked, issued, and recorded prior to use.
- The Watch Commander of the shift, who will be on duty when the problem is anticipated, as well as any support supervisors, will join the briefing.
- The Sheriff's office, Fire, EMS, local hospitals, City shop, and the Regional Jail will be contacted so that they are prepared for the incident.

**325.05 – Major Disturbance** – If a major disturbance occurs:

- The Patrol Division Commander will alert the necessary personnel and agencies.
- The Patrol Division Commander and the Chief of Police will decide upon the course of action to be pursued.
- A decision will be made to go to an emergency 12-hour shift plan.
- The City of Fredericksburg Emergency Operations Plan will be activated.

**325.06 - Civil Disorder Equipment** - SETT personnel may utilize issued tactical equipment at the Incident Commanders discretion. (Consider the event and circumstances at the time)

**325.07 – State Police** – Should additional support be necessary, after first utilizing the Mutual Aid plans, the State Police shall be contacted.

**325.08 – Tactics** – In responding to civil disturbances, the police must use several recognized tactics to bring the disturbance under control. Immediate action is necessary and time is of the essence in dealing with civil disorder. Do not allow this incident to proceed unchecked. Act decisively and promptly:

- Close off the area of the incident and limit access to the area. This includes all motor vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Officers may have to be assigned to this duty initially.
- Immediately put as many uniformed officers as possible into the area as a show of force. If obvious lawlessness is present, and enough officers are available, make arrests for the most serious offenses. Keep a highly visible police presence in the area as much as possible.
- If police resources are not immediately available, or if the disturbance is too large to be handled, have the officers retire to a staging point, and be ready to return into the area as soon as possible.
- Begin mobilization of SETT and have them report to the staging area as soon as possible.
- Contact mutual aid, the Sheriff's Office, and the Jail to request assistance.
- If looting and arson begin, and there are sufficient police resources, deploy chemical agents to protect businesses, citizens and the police officers.
- After there are sufficient resources, deploy the officers to begin sectoring off and clearing the disturbance area, making arrests if necessary. Additional chemical agents may have to be deployed.
- Provide necessary support to the Fire Department if they need to enter the disturbance area.

**325.09 – De-escalation** – It is incumbent upon the Incident Commander to effect an orderly de-escalation of personnel and resources following the conclusion of a civil disorder. Officers must be demobilized with consideration towards interfacing them back to their normal work hours while avoiding working anyone more than 12 consecutive hours.

**325.10 – After Action Reports** – The Incident Commander will forward an after action report through channels to the Chief of Police. After review, the Chief will forward this report to the Patrol Division Commander for any follow-up actions and filing.

**FREDERICKSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT  
INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM / CRITICAL  
INCIDENT**

**CIVIL DISTURBANCE AND MASS ARRESTS**

- ☐ Establish Incident Command and assume Command of the incident
- ☐ Account for each officer presently on the scene
- ☐ Establish a perimeter – close off and limit access to the area
- ☐ Request additional personnel – SETT, Sheriff's Office, Mutual Aid, Detectives, K9
- ☐ Put as many officers as a group into area for a show of force
- ☐ Establish a staging point for officers to obtain assignments
- ☐ Establish a rally point for officers to retire to if necessary
- ☐ Have Fire Department and EMS respond to the staging area
- ☐ Ensure increased protection for other emergency services personnel
- ☐ Deploy chemical agents (SETT) if necessary
- ☐ After enough assistance is available, sector off the area, arrest as necessary
- ☐ Mass arrest considerations:
  - Temporary confinement area
  - Juvenile offenders
  - Evidence collection
  - ID of offenders
  - Medical treatment for offenders
  - Food, water, sanitation facilities for offenders if necessary
  - Transportation